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CITY OF ROCHESTER



REPORT  
of  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Urban Sanitary District  
and  
Port Sanitary District

1935

ROCHESTER :  
THE PRINTING CO., LTD., 77, HIGH STREET.



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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
SAYE HOUSE,  
ROCHESTER.

JUNE, 1936.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER.  
YOUR WORSHIP AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1935 on the conditions affecting the Public Health and the medical and ancillary services provided for the Community.

**Births.** There were 521 births during the year. This is a marked increase over the average number for the past 9 years. The Birth Rate was 15.1 per 1000 persons living.

**Population.** The Registrar General's estimate of population in the middle of 1935 was 34,480. His corresponding estimate in 1931 was 30,200, the increase in population since that time being 4,780 persons. The chief cause of this increase is the extension of the City Boundaries in 1934, when the added areas in Frindsbury and Strood were incorporated with the City.

Since 1931 the number of dwelling houses has increased by approximately 2,000, of which about half is in the added area, the other half having been built in various parts of the City.

**Mortality.** The Death Rate (11.3 per 1000 persons living) was lower in 1935 than in the two preceding years. The average Death Rate in districts of corresponding size in England and Wales was 11.2 in 1935 (see page 5).

The Infantile Mortality was 65.3 per 1000 births. This is the highest mortality in children under 1 year of age since 1929. The number of Births has shown an increase in 1935 (see page 5 and Table A). There were 521 births as compared with 480 in 1934, and 396 in 1933, and this factor has a direct bearing on the increase in the number of infant deaths. A reference to Table H on page 34 shows that other influences are concerned in the high mortality among infants. Fifteen of the 34 deaths in the year occurred within the first month of life. (In 1934 there were 10 deaths in the first month of life). The conditions causing death at this age are largely ante-natal in origin, and attention to the hygiene and health of the expectant mother is of primary importance in its prevention. There were also 5 deaths from Diarrhoea in children under 1 year of age, as compared with 2 in 1934 and 1 in 1933.

**Housing.** 346 new houses were erected during 1935 and 42 were demolished under the Housing Acts. Dwelling houses erected during the past ten years are shown on page 14. Further particulars are given in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector on page 18.

**Overcrowding.** Particulars of overcrowding in the City on the standards of the Housing Act, 1935, are set out on Table B on page 17, and some notes on the findings are given on pages 15 and 16.



**Maternity and Child Welfare Services.** Considerable extensions have been made during the year in the medical services for mothers and children. Details of the various schemes are given on pages 35-40, and on pages 44 and 45. Adequate facilities are now available for expectant and nursing mothers, and it is to be hoped that they will be used to the fullest possible advantage. There are indications that a certain number of women do not realise the necessity of ante-natal care, and this indifference to a matter of vital health importance must be overcome by educative propaganda if the services provided are to be successful in their purpose.

Certain of the medical services which were provided through the Education Committee for school children have become available for children of pre-school age. The expansion of this principle so that the medical services may become unified and accessible to all children, irrespective of their age, is highly desirable not only for health reasons but for economic motives. The application of preventive and remedial measures always yields a better return when administered soon, and the number of defects in children requiring treatment when they first come to school clearly indicates the need for preventive treatment during the pre-school age.

**Infectious Diseases.** Immunization against Diphtheria was commenced on September 24th, and 178 patients attended the clinic before the end of the year.

There were no epidemics during the year; the notifications and deaths from infectious diseases are shown on page 26.

The preparation of this report has only been possible with the valuable assistance of all members of the department, and for this assistance and the continued co-operation throughout the year, I desire to record my appreciation. Information in several parts of the report has been supplied by the officials in other departments of the Corporation and by others, and to them I have to express my thanks for their helpful collaboration.

To the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, I have to acknowledge my gratitude for the sympathetic consideration that has been shown to the department in all aspects of its work, and for their courteous association, help and support in the common effort to achieve improvement in the health of the community.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. O. MURRAY,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



# CITY OF ROCHESTER



## Report as to Urban District

### STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health.

\* J. O. MURRAY, M.D. (Edin. Univ.), Ch.B. (Edin. Univ.), D.P.H.  
(Liverpool Univ.)

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

\* THOMAS TOPPING, F.R.SAN.I., C.R.S.I., C.M.I., C.L.S.I.B.,  
Medallist Final Honours Hygiene.

Sanitary Inspectors.

\* E. W. BARTON, C.R.S.I., C.M.I.

\* A. H. W. CHAPMAN, C.S.I.E.B., C.M.I.

o/ R. T. HOWELL, C.S.I.E.B.

Veterinary Inspector (part time).

ELMER EBBETS. M.R.C.V.S.

Health Visitors.

\*\*§||††\* Miss H. G. TOD.

††\*\*§||§†\* Miss C. J. GEELEHER.

Clerks.

Miss W. JONES.

+ J. W. PERKINS.

\* Indicates officials to whose salaries contributions are made under the Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants.

† Also District Nursing Certificate.

‡ Certificate of Central Midwives Board.

§ Four years General Training, S.R.N.

|| Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate for Health Visitors.

§ " " " " " Sanitary Inspectors.

\* Infectious Diseases Certificate.

† Hygiene Diploma and Tropical Nursing.

° Appointed 9th December, 1935.

+ Appointed 1st April, 1935.

## A. STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA (IN ACRES), LAND AND INLAND WATER ... ..	3.7
POPULATION—Census 1931 ... 31,193      Estimated (Middle of 1935) R.G. ...	34.4
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1935) ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS ... ..	9.6
RATEABLE VALUE ... ..	£225.0
SUM REPRESENTING A PENNY RATE ... ..	Gross £860      Nett £8

### Extract from 1931 Census compared with 1921 Census and Local Census 1935.

	At date of Housing Survey		
	1935	1931	1921
(a) Total Dwellings occupied ... ..	9579	7415	6792
Ditto vacant ... ..	160	180	—
(b) Number of private families therein ... ..	9663	7925	7244
(c) Average number of persons per family ... ..	3.6	3.72	4.17
(d) Average size of occupied dwellings ... ..	—	5.28 rooms	5.38 rooms
(e) Families living with more than 2 persons per room density	—	223 (1271 persons)	184 (1439 persons)

### TOTAL BIRTHS—521.

		Total.	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate ... ..	502	259	243
	Illegitimate ... ..	19	11	8
Still Births	Legitimate ... ..	17	9	8
	Illegitimate ... ..	0	0	0
Birth Rate per 1,000 persons living ...		15.1		

TOTAL DEATHS—All causes at all ages ...	390	208	182
Death rate per 1,000 persons living ...	11.3		

#### Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	...	...
Other Puerperal Causes ... ..	...	...	...

Total ...

\* Including 1 non-resident.

Natural Increase in Population (Excess Births over Deaths) ... ..	...	...	...
---	-----	-----	-----

### DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

Total Infant Deaths ... ..	...	...	...	...
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births ... ..	...	...	...	...
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births ... ..	...	...	...	...
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ... ..	...	...	...	...
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ... ..	...	...	...	...

The Registrar-General's Table of Causes of Deaths appears at the end of the Report on page 46.

The following Table shows a comparison between the " Rates " in this District and those in other parts of England and Wales for the year 1935.

	Live Births. Rate per 1,000 Resident Population	Deaths per 1,000 Population.	Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Registered Live Births.
England and Wales ... ..	14.7	11.7	57
21 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	14.8	11.8	62
40 Smaller Towns. Populations from 25,000 to 50,000 ... ..	14.8	11.2	55
London ... ..	13.3	11.4	58
Rochester ... ..	15.1	11.1	65.3

#### PRINCIPAL CERTIFIABLE CAUSES OF DEATH.

Diseases of the Circulatory System (including Heart Disease and Cerebral Hæmorrhage) ... ..	127
Cancer ... ..	60
Respiratory Diseases:	
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	18
Bronchitis ... ..	12
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	1
Tuberculosis (all forms) ... ..	26
Deaths from all causes ... ..	390

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY AND BIRTH RATE.

Deaths of children under 1 year of age per 1,000 births, and births per 1,000 persons living:—

	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
Infant Mortality ...	51.9	42.8	43.2	65.5	53.9	35.4	35.6	35.3	50.0	65.3
Birth Rate ...	18.4	16.6	15.2	15.5	15.1	14.0	15.4	12.8	14.6	15.1

Table H, p. 34 shows the causes of death in children under 1 year of age at different ages.

#### CHILD MORTALITY.

Number of deaths of children aged 1 to 5 years during 1934 ... ..	14
Number of deaths of children aged 1 to 5 years during 1935 ... ..	4

#### NEO NATAL MORTALITY.

Total Deaths ... ..	15	(1934=9)
Death rate of children under 1 month of age per 1,000 births ...	28.8	(1934=20.4)

#### UNEMPLOYMENT.

I am indebted to A. J. Cushing, Esq., Manager of the Ministry of Labour Exchange, and S. T. Osborn, Esq., Manager of the Juvenile Employment Agency, Elm House, Chatham, for the following information, which shows to some extent the amount of unemployment in the area during the past 5 years.

a) Number of persons (estimated for Rochester) registered as unemployed at the Ministry of Labour Exchange, Chatham, in March of each year:

1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
1140	1375	1450	1250	800

b) Average monthly figures of Unemployed Juveniles between the ages of 14 to 18 years. (Estimated for Rochester):—

1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
37	44	42	33	99

## DISTRIBUTION AND DENSITY OF POPULATION.

(HOUSING SURVEY CENSUS 1935.)

	Acreage.	Population.	Persons per acre.	Structural separate dwellings occupied
	Acres			
<b>Rochester City</b> ... ..	<b>3759</b>	<b>34980</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>9579</b>
Frindsbury Ward ... ..	389	6874	17.7	1952
St. Margaret's Ward ... ..	1426	4465	3.1	1209
St. Nicholas' Ward ... ..	125	1388	11.1	401
St. Peter's Ward ... ..	805	8360	10.4	2284
Strood Ward ... ..	936	9228	9.8	2474
Troy Town Ward ... ..	78	4665	59.5	1259

## OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS. (CENSUS 1931.)

	Males.	Females.	Total
1. Population at all ages ... ..	15526	15667	31193
2. Population age 14 years and over ... ..	12002	12216	24218
3. Population occupied 14 years and over ... ..	10460	3161	13621
(a) Operatives in work ... ..	8172	2623	10795
(b) Out of work (all classes) ... ..	1266	229	1495
4. Unoccupied and Retired ... ..	1542	9055	10597

### CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF MALES.

Metal Workers ... ..	1581	Professional Occupations ... ..	2
Transport Workers ... ..	1500	Agriculture ... ..	2
Commerce and Finance ... ..	1139	Painters and Decorators ... ..	2
Workers in wood and furniture ... ..	697	Electric Apparatus Makers ... ..	1
Clerks, Draughtsmen & Typists ... ..	584	Undefined Workers (unskilled and general labourers) ... ..	20
Public Activities and Defence ... ..	491		
Builders and Bricklayers ... ..	421		

## DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN WARDS.

	Population (H.S.)	Births.	Birth Rate.	Deaths.	Death Rate
<b>Rochester City M.B.</b> ... ..	<b>34980</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>11.3</b>
Frindsbury Ward ... ..	6874	43	6.2	29	4.2
St. Margaret's Ward ... ..	4465	82	18.1	74	16.6
St. Nicholas' Ward ... ..	1388	24	17.3	25	18.0
St. Peter's Ward ... ..	8360	110	13.1	78	9.3
Strood Ward ... ..	9228	222	24.0	140	15.2
Troy Town Ward ... ..	4665	40	8.6	44	9.5

## COMMENTS ON SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

### POPULATION.

The population is engaged predominantly in industry, the chief forms of employment being shown on this page. The Royal Dockyard at Chatham by reason of proximity absorbs a proportion of the employable population of Rochester. The River Medway trade, cement manufacture, agriculture, engineering and aircraft building form the main local industries. The cathedral and historical and Dickensian associations of the City attract many visitors.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1935 and Five Previous Years  
Name of District—ROCHESTER

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Nett.		Number	Rate	of Non-Registered Residents in the District.	of Residents not Registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age		At all Ages.	
		Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 nett Births. 10	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		11	12
1930	{ 31900* 31400†	482	15·1	478	15·2	213	66	26	53·9	331	10·5
1931	30200	423	14·0	520	17·2	281	150	15	35·4	389	12·8
1932	30980	477	15·4	487	15·7	228	95	17	35·6	354	11·4
1933	30700	396	12·8	509	16·5	212	86	14	35·3	383	12·4
1934	32807	480	14·6	513	15·6	154	133	24	50·0	408	12·4
1935	34480	521	15·1	435	12·6	159	114	34	65·3	390	11·3

\* For birth rate.

† For death rate.



## B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

### 1. MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

There are 17 doctors resident in the area who are engaged in civilian practice.

### 2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

CHEMICAL. So far as regards food and drugs, analyses are carried out by the City analyst, and the results for the year appear on page 24.

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL. The work under this heading is carried out at the County Laboratory at Maidstone. In addition, a quarterly chemical and bacteriological analysis of the Strood water is made by Dr. Spitta at St. George Hospital, London.

The various results of the bacteriological examinations and chemical analyses appear in other parts of the Report.

### 3. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

A motor ambulance is kept at St. William's Hospital for the removal of cases of Infectious Disease from Rochester and Chatham, and a motor ambulance for non-infectious and accident cases is maintained by St. John Ambulance Association and this is available at all times. A further motor ambulance is kept by the Corporation for street accidents.

### 4. NURSING IN THE HOME.

No nurses are directly employed by the Local Authority for the nursing of patients at home.

The Trustees of Watts' Charity employ ten whole-time nurses, four of whom are State registered. In addition two emergency nurses and three "Home Helps" are employed by this body. Watts' Charity thus provides a very effective home nursing service for the area and co-operates very generously with the Health Department.

As a result of the co-operation between the Charity and the Local Authority, the Trustees have agreed to provide Home Helps in Maternity cases, and Home Nursing for cases of Puerperal Pyrexia, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Pneumonia and Erysipelas.

The number of patients receiving nursing attention at home through Watts' Charity in 1935 was 433, and in addition, Home Helps were supplied during the year in 56 cases.

### 5. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Clinic.	Situation.	By whom provided.
School Clinic	Strood House, The Common, Rochester	Rochester Education Committee
Child Welfare Clinic	Do.	Rochester Corporation
Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases	36, New Road, Rochester	Kent County Council
Tuberculosis Dispensary	13, New Road, Rochester	Do.
Centre for Distribution of Dried Milk, etc.	The New Corn Exchange, Rochester	Rochester Corporation

# Public Hospitals in and adjoining the City of Rochester.

<i>Name and Situation.</i>	<i>Number of Beds.</i>	<i>Classification of Beds.</i>	<i>Management, Purpose.</i>	<i>Medical Staff.</i>	<i>Nursing Staff.</i>	<i>Average of Site.</i>	<i>Area Served.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
County Hospital, Magpie Hall Rd., Chatham.	412 237	Acute Medical and Surgical ... 183 Male 86 Female 62 Children 35 Tuberculosis ... 26 Male 14 Female 12 Isolation ... 8 Male 4 Female 4 Maternity ... 22 Beds 16 Cots 6 Chronic Sick ... 134 Male 42 Female 92 Mental ... 114 Female 61	Public Assistance Committee, Kent C.C. For all general diseases, Tuberculosis, Maternity, Sick Children and Lunatics (female only).	Medical Officer 1 Resident Assist. Medical " 2 do. Consult. Physic. 1 non-Resident Surgeon 1 do. Dental " 1 do. Assist. Nurses 4 Mental Nurses 6	Supt. Nurse 1 Assist. Supt. " 1 Sisters 11 Probation Nurses 7 Nurses 48 Assist. Nurses 4 Mental Nurses 6	About 10 acres.	Chatham, Gillingham and part of the City of Rochester	Not an appropriated hospital, but a mixed institution administered under the Poor Law Acts. There is room for the erection of two additional blocks of 100 beds each.
R.N. and Marine Maternity Nursing Home, (Canada House), Barnsole Rd., Gillingham.	28	Maternity Wards ... 28 Private Wards 3 Labour Wards 2	Primarily for the wives of Service members of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. Rochester patients admitted by agreement under M. & C.W. Scheme.	Hon. Medical Officer 1 Medical Practitioners engaged by patient or at request of Matron.	Matron 1 Sisters 2 Nurses 9	1 acre	Gillingham, Rochester, Chatham, Sittingbourne and localities.	Consultants provided by Rochester Council for Rochester Patients, Ante-Natal Clinic opened during the year.
St. Williams' Hospital, St. Williams' Way, Rochester.	85 on Ministry's Standard of 144 sq. ft. per head.	Block 1 2-8 bed wards 2-12 do. Block 2 2-6 do. 2-2 do. Block 3 2-6 do. 2-2 do. Block 4 2-3 do. Block 5 8 cubicles (including operating Theatre).	The Rochester and Chatham Joint Hospital Board.	Medical Officer 1 non-resident Deputy Medical Officer 1 part time.	Matron 1 Sisters 2 Staff Nurses 3 Probation Nurses 11	6 acres	Rochester and Chatham.	Extension possible to 120 beds, on present site.



<i>Name and Situation.</i>	<i>Number of Beds.</i>	<i>Classification of Beds.</i>	<i>Management.</i>	<i>Purpose.</i>	<i>Medical Staff.</i>	<i>Nursing Staff.</i>	<i>Acreage of Site.</i>	<i>Area Served.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
Small Pox Hospital, City Way, Rochester.	26	Small Pox beds only.	The Rochester and Chatham Joint Hospital Board.	Isolation and Treatment of Small Pox.	As and when required.	As and when required.	3 acres	Rochester and Chatham. Approximate population 81,000	Temporary Buildings. Cases of Small Pox may be admitted to Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford, by arrangement with London C.C.
St. Bartholemew's Hospital, New Road, Rochester.	120	Medical Orthopaedic Surgical Ophthalmic	Voluntary Committee of 34 Trustees.	General Medical and surgical complicated maternity cases. Clinics for children, Ear, Nose, and Throat, Out-patients, Orthopaedic, Electric Therapeutic, T.B. and Ophthalmic Cases, Pathological, X-ray and Radio-Therapeutic Depts.	Hon. Surgeons ... 3 Assist. Hon. Surgeons ... 3 Hon. Physicians ... 3 Assist. Hon. Physicians 3 Hon. Ophthalm. Surgeon 1 Hon. Anaesthetists ... 5 Hon. Pathologist ... 1 Hon. Radiologist ... 1 Hon. Dentist ... 1 Resident Surg. Officer 1 Casualty House Surg. 1 Electric Physician ... 1 Hon. Surgeon, Ear, Nose and Throat 1	Matron 1 Assist. Matron 1 Sisters 10 Nurses 37 Sister Tutor 1	3 acres	Rochester, Chatham, Gillingham, Sittingbourne Sheerness and district.	Extension scheme in progress which includes 2 new wards to contain 56 beds. School of Massage attached to Orthopaedic Dept. 2 new operating theatres opened during the year.
Strood P.A.C. Institution Gun Lane, Strood.	126 Maternity 191 Tuberculosis Others	... 4 ... 8 ...114	Public Assistance Committee, Kent C.C.	Treatment of Chronic Sick and Tuberculous patients.	Medical Officer 1 non-resident, part time	Head Nurse 1 Assistant Nurses 8	4.8 acres	Strood and Hoos Rural District, and Northfleet Urban District	A "mixed" unappropriated institution administered under the Poor Law Acts.
								Approximate Population 37,000.	

## 7. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

(a) MIDWIVES. There are six midwives living and practising in the area. In addition four midwives living outside the City practise in the the district, and there are nine midwives employed on the nursing staff of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

(b) HEALTH VISITORS. Two Health Visitors are employed and details of their work are shown on pages 41 to 44.

(c) INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN. Cases of acute illness are admitted to St. Bartholomew's Hospital or to the County Hospital, in the former case by means of subscription letters and in the latter under the Poor Law Acts. Arrangements for treatment in Convalescent Homes for mothers and children were made during the year, patients being admitted to one of the homes of the Metropolitan Convalescent Institution or similar institutions.

(d) PROVISION FOR MATERNITY CASES.

(1) In necessitous cases the midwives' fees are subsidised or paid in full by the Council. The number of occasions during the year in which a midwife was subsidised or paid in full was seven.

Watts' Charity also provide nurses, but not midwives, to attend necessitous cases. In the year under report they provided nurses in 61 cases of illness of children.

(2) Home-Helps are provided by Watts' Charity. The scheme began in June, 1934, and the number of applications received for such help during the year 1935 increased to such an extent that it was found necessary to fix a scale of income. Consequently each applicant is requested to furnish particulars of her financial circumstances, and if the nett income of the household is within the scale laid down the applicant is recommended the services of a Home Help. As previously recorded, Home Helps were supplied in 56 cases during the year 1935. This provision is of great value and supplies a definite need in many cases.

(3) A scheme is in operation which provides hospital beds at Canada House, Gillingham, for complicated and normal cases, consultant medical services in difficult cases, laboratory facilities, sterilised maternity outfits, and extra nourishment. Accommodation for infective conditions is available at the County Hospital. The scheme is linked up with other medical services in the area, such as Tuberculosis and V.D. Clinics. Suitable ante-natal and post-natal cases can also be admitted to Canada House, Gillingham.

(4) Infant Life Protection. See page 42.

(5) Orthopædic Treatment. There is an Orthopædic Department at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, to which children may be sent with subscribers' letters.

(6) Maternity and Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927. There are two homes registered under the Act, one on the north and the other on the south side of the river. They are visited from time to time by the Medical Officer of Health and the Health Visitors.

Under Section 6 of the Act exemption has been granted to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

## C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### I. WATER.

The water supply has been dealt with fully in previous reports and remains satisfactory. There are two supplies, viz., one provided by the Rochester Corporation for the north side of the River, and the other supply provided by the Chatham and District Water Company for the south side of the River.

The Strood water supply is chlorinated.

The following are chemical and bacteriological examinations of samples of water from the supply of the Chatham and District Water Company. The analyses have been very kindly supplied to me by Mr. H. J. Kidman, General Manager of the Company.

#### CHEMICAL EXAMINATION TAKEN 23rd JULY, 1935.

The results as follows are expressed in parts per 100,000:—

Suspended Solids	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Dissolved Solids	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34.4
Chloride (as $\text{Cl}_2$ )	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.1
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.001
Nitrate (as $\text{N}_2$ )	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.93
Nitrite	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Oxygen consumed from Permanganate (4 hrs. at 80 deg. F)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.009
Dissolved Oxygen absorbed in 5 days	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dissolved Oxygen (at time of sampling)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Physical Appearance—clear, colourless, odourless.								
pH value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.3
Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22.09
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.73

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION TAKEN ON 27th JUNE.

1. Snodhurst Pumping Station. Treated water, 11.45 a.m.
2. Nashenden Pumping Station. Untreated chalk water, 12.5 p.m.
3. Company's Depôt, Trafalgar Street, Gillingham. Scullery tap, 11 a.m.
4. Capstone Pumping Station. Lower Greensand Water, 11.15 a.m.

	1.	2.	3.	4.
Organisms per c.c. at 20 deg. C.	Less than 1.	1.	Less than 1.	Less than 1.
Organisms per c.c. at 20 deg. C. R.L.	Do.	Less than 1.	Do.	Do.
Organisms per c.c. at 37.5 deg. C.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
Coliform Organisms.	Absent from 50 c.c.s of the water.	Absent from 50 c.c.s of the water.	Absent from 50 c.c.s of the water.	Absent from 50 c.c.s of the water.

The water in each case was in a satisfactory condition and was suitable for drinking purposes.

There has been no change in the methods and numbers of bacteriological examinations, and the findings are similar to those reported in the past few years.

#### RAINFALL FOR THE PAST 9 YEARS (RECORDED AT STROOD WATER WORKS).

	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
Total Depth (inches)	31.84	27.29	21.03	26.38	22.01	18.68	18.60	19.5	26.0

#### 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

SEWERAGE. For particulars of the Rochester and Chatham Joint Sewerage Scheme see Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1928. Page 10.

Gillingham M.B. became a constituent authority of the Joint Sewerage Board on 1st October, 1934. The treatment of the sewerage before discharge into the River Medway is, as formerly, by Tank Settlement only.

The principal sewer extensions during 1935 were in the area added to the City.

DRAINAGE. Connection of house drains to the new sewerage scheme which began in 1928 still continues, as is shown in the following table.

Number of houses connected to sewers at the end of each year:

1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
1608	2628	4107	4955	5790	7188	7655

### 3. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There are no streams in the District.

The River Medway receives the sewage and trade effluents from shipping and the Medway Towns and is subject to heavy pollution, an evil which is lessened to some extent by the scouring and diluting effect of tide and stream. The partial treatment of the sewage from the Medway Towns before discharge at Motney Hill has also decreased the intensity of pollution, but the amount of sewage effluent reaching the river is probably greater than at any previous time in its history.

The Strood Rural District Council are promoting a scheme to discharge the drainage from the Hoo District, after certain treatment, into the East Hoo Creek. The proposals are under consideration by the Medway Conservancy Board and a decision has not yet been reached.

### 4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are very few privies remaining in the City.

For details see Annual Reports for 1933 and previous years.

### 5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Scavenging and house refuse collection and disposal are carried out under the direction of the City Surveyor, and there has been no change of procedure.

The number of cesspools which require emptying continues to decrease.

DUSTBINS. For many years the general lack of sanitary dustbins for the temporary deposit of refuse has been the subject of adverse comment in the Annual Reports, and during the year 1935 the Council agreed to take the necessary steps to ensure the provision of a sanitary dustbin for every house.

The necessary procedure to give effect to this decision was begun in June, and by the end of 1935, sanitary dustbins had been provided or ordered, through Health Department action, by the owners of 1,101 houses.

It is hoped that before the issue of the next Annual Report every house in the City will have a sanitary dustbin.

### 6. SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the public elementary schools is dealt with in the Report of the School Medical Officer, which has been submitted to the Council as an independent document.



## D. HOUSING.

Dwelling houses erected during the past ten years:—

	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	Total
Erected by Local Authority	36	120	64	53	50	30	92	82	24	24	
Private Enterprise ...	30	116	21	41	21	82	115	221	437	322	14

Dwelling houses demolished under Housing Acts:—

	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	Total
	1	0	6	15	2	13	15	15	48	42	1

24 houses were erected and occupied under the Housing Act, 1930, during the year, and an additional 52 will be erected in the very near future, thus completing the Council's five years' Slum Clearance programme, and the completion of the erection of 100 houses, which was the number to be built in the five years' plan.

It will probably be necessary to build some additional houses for persons displaced from houses which have been or will be dealt with since the original scheme was formulated.

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

### 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

Note (1).—Includes houses dealt with for defective drainage and fittings only.

### 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Note.—Includes houses dealt with for defective drainage and sanitary fittings only.

### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

#### A. Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—											
(a) By Owners ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	

#### B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	--

\*Includes Notices served in 1934 and remedied in 1935.

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners ... ..	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	0
C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	39
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	42
D. Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930. ...	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	2
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	0

### HOUSING ACT, 1935.

#### NOTES ON OVERCROWDING SURVEY, 1935.

1. The Survey conducted under the Housing Act, 1935, showed 102 families to be overcrowded on the standards laid down in the Act. This number (102) is equivalent to one per cent. of all families in the City. The percentage is relatively small and is much less than the average for the country, but the prescribed standard of overcrowding in the Act is admittedly neither a high one nor necessarily a final one. For these reasons it must not be assumed that, apart from 102 families, all the other families in the City are living under conditions incapable of further improvement. Obviously it is essential that the legal procedure to abate overcrowding should start within practical limits, and the standards laid down should be effective in eliminating gross overcrowding as a preliminary to further steps which may be taken to eradicate any degree of overcrowding which is prejudicial to health.

“It is a hard thing to initiate any reform, and it was necessary to familiarize the public mind with the principle, by inserting the thin end of the wedge first: it is not to be wondered at that among so practical a people there should still be some room for improvement.”—(*Samuel Butler.*)

2. Moreover, as the records which are being compiled with regard to the housing conditions are completed, detailed information will become available as to the size of every room in every working class house in the City, and the number of persons who may occupy any given house can be specified. In the future this detailed information which is now being collected will be invaluable in applying any higher standard of overcrowding which may be introduced by Act of Parliament.

Table B on page 17 shows some of the data with regard to the population and the housing accommodation in the Wards of the City.

3. Troy Town Ward will be seen to have the greatest density of houses per acre (16) and persons per acre (59.5) and the highest percentage of overcrowding in the houses (2.4 per cent. families overcrowded). In other words, overcrowding on site and in families is worse in Troy Town Ward than in any other Ward in the City. In assessing overcrowding the Act does not take into consideration the extent to which the dwellings are huddled together, but it must be apparent that an overcrowded family in a densely populated area is much worse off than an overcrowded family situated in the country, or in a sparsely populated part of the City. Hence the congestion of houses in Troy Town adds to the evil of overcrowding in the households and the remedy necessitates the provision of more open spaces.

4. Compared with 2.46 per cent. of overcrowded families in Troy Town, Strood comes next with 1.54 per cent., and St. Nicholas' with 1.24 per cent. St. Margaret with 0.16 per cent. shows the least overcrowding.

5. The number of children aged 10 years or under in the total population of the various Wards is of interest in the consideration of the provision of health services. In the Strood Ward there are 1,441 children under ten years of age, in St. Peter's there are 940, in Frindsbury 711, and in Troy Town 521.

6. There are also as many children under one year of age in Strood Ward as there are in any other two Wards in the City. The percentages of infants under one year to the total population in the various Wards are, Strood 5 per cent., Troy Town 3.8 per cent., St. Nicholas' 3.5 per cent., St. Peter's 3.0 per cent., Frindsbury 2.3 per cent., and St. Margaret's 1.2 per cent.

7. Column 14 in Table B shows the number of families living in sub-tenancy in the City. There are 254 such families of which only eight are overcrowded on the standards of the Housing Act, 1935, but many of these sub-tenants are young married couples who ought to have a house of their own in which to commence their matrimonial career. The greatest number of sub-tenants is in Frindsbury (75), but the highest percentage is in St. Nicholas' Ward—6 per cent.

8. The total population in each Ward is also shown in Table B. Strood with 9,228 persons is the largest, and St. Nicholas' with 1,388 is the smallest Ward.

9. One disconcerting, but not unexpected, feature in the Survey was the number of Council houses which were found to be overcrowded. The majority were only slightly overcrowded and in most cases the overcrowding was due to an increase in the size of the family after occupation of new Council houses. Of the 102 overcrowded families, 45 were tenants of Council houses, but this large proportion is not altogether surprising when it is remembered that many of those families were formerly families re-housed from slum areas, and that some are in occupation of old Council houses. The abatement of overcrowding in many of these families will be possible by an interchange of accommodation, but for some new accommodation will have to be provided.

The sizes of the overcrowded families were as follows:—

No. of persons in the household	...	...	...	...	18	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	Total
No. of such families overcrowded:—																			
(a) In Private houses ..					1	2	0	0	3	5	7	11	10	6	6	5	0	1	
(b) In Council houses ..					0	0	2	1	0	5	9	6	14	6	0	2	0	0	
Total ..					1	2	2	1	3	10	16	17	24	12	6	7	0	1	

This shows that 52 overcrowded families consisted of eight or more persons, many of whom a four or more bedroomed house will be required. In some cases it will be possible to abate overcrowding by the removal of lodgers from the family. It should be pointed out that the average working class house erected by private enterprise is not constructed to house large families and consequently the necessary housing provision for these exceptional families will become the duty of the Local Authority.

10. Eighty-four working class houses were found vacant during the course of the Survey. This does not mean that they can be reckoned as available houses for overcrowded families because many of them are unsuitable for the purpose and others were only vacant during a period of change in tenancy.



Table B. Population and the Housing Accommodation in the Wards.

Ward.	Number of Occupied Houses (including Institutions)	Number of Empty Houses		Total Population	Number of Children under 1 year of age	Number of Children 10 yrs. of age and under	Total number of Children 10 yrs. of age and under	Percentage of Children 10 yrs. of age and under to Total Population in the Ward	Density of Population		Average number of Persons per Dwelling Occupied	Number of families overcrowded on the 1933 Housing Act	Percentage	Number of Sub-Tenants	Number of Institutions	Average
		Work-ing Class	Other						Houses per acre	Persons per acre						
St. Margaret ...	1209	6	37	4465	15	210	225	5.0	0.9	3.1	3.7	2	.16	18	3	1426
St. Peter ...	2284	20	14	8360	70	870	940	11.2	2.8	10.4	3.7	10	.44	26	4	805
Troy Town ...	1259	14	4	4665	48	473	521	11.2	16.0	59.5	3.7	30	2.46	54	—	78
St. Nicholas ...	401	10	1	1388	14	94	108	7.7	3.2	11.1	3.4	5	1.24	24	1	125
Frindsbury ...	1952	8	6	6874	45	666	711	10.4	5.0	17.7	3.5	17	0.87	75	—	339
Strood ...	2474	26	14	9228	125	1316	1441	15.6	2.6	9.8	3.7	38	1.54	57	2	936
Total ...	9579	84	76	34980	317	3929	3629	11.3	2.5	9.3	3.6	102	1.06	254	10	3759
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

## E. CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

I beg to submit my 28th Annual Report on the sanitary inspection of the City.

### HOUSING ACT INSPECTIONS.

121 houses were subjected to detailed inspection under the Housing Act 1925 and 1930, and formally reported upon to the Council. A list of the properties follows:—

Broom Hill Cottages	...	4	John Street	...	9
Bryant Road	...	1	Lloyds Yard, Strood	...	2
Cliffe Road	...	1	Morden Street	...	1
Common, The	...	1	Newark Street	...	11
Cookham Hill	...	1	Onslow Road	...	3
Crown Court, High Street	...	3	Parrs Head Lane	...	5
Cuxton Road	...	1	Princes Street	...	13
Delce Road	...	5	St. Margaret Street	...	4
Free School Lane	...	4	Sidney Road	...	1
Frindsbury Road	...	10	Temple Street	...	13
Gill's Cottages, High Street	...	3	Troy Place, King Street	...	6
Gun Lane	...	3	Victoria Street, Strood	...	2
Henry Street	...	3	Wykeham Street	...	2
High Street, Rochester	...	1			
High Street, Strood	...	1			121
Hoopers Place	...	1			
Jerusalem Row	...	6			

46 houses were dealt with as incapable of being made properly fit for human habitation at reasonable cost. The following 39 houses had Demolition Orders applied during the past year, viz.:—

Nos. 1, 2, 3 & 4, Broom Hill, Cottages	Nos. 60, 62 & 64, John Street
No. 42, The Common	Nos. 1 & 2, Lloyds Yard, Strood
Nos. 51 & 53, Corporation Street	Nos. 2, 4 & 6, Parrs Head Lane
Nos. 1, 3, 5, 5a & 7, Delce Road	No. 70, Princes Street
Nos. 83 & 85, Frindsbury Road	Nos. 15, 17, 19 & 21, St. Margaret St.
Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11, Jerusalem Row	Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6, Troy Place, King Street

Formal undertakings to close the houses were accepted from the owners of the five houses, Nos. 3 & 5, Gun Lane, Nos. 11 & 21, Parrs Head Lane, and No. 2, Strood High Street, and Closing Orders under Section 20, Housing Act 1930, were applied to those parts of Nos. 30 & 32, John Street, used as dwellings.

Clearance Area procedure was commenced with respect to No. 117, High Street, and Nos. 2, 4, 6 & 8, Free School Lane.

Separate reference to Back-to-back houses is made later.

The number of houses demolished, 42, was six less than the figure for 1930 which was a record. The properties cleared by Housing Act Demolition Orders were:—

#### FRINDSBURY ROAD & ORCHARD CLEARANCE AREA—25 HOUSES.

Tollgate Cottage, Cuxton Road.	Nos. 2 & 70, Princes Street.
Nos. 22 & 24, Edward Street.	Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10, Ship Lane.
No. 114, King Street.	
Nos. 22 & 24, North Street.	

At the end of the year 52 houses under Demolition Orders were still standing, and of these 32 were occupied, but most of the tenants remaining had the prospect of being re-housed on completion of the second block of houses in course of erection under the Housing Act, 1930.

It may be of interest to note here that the Council's slum clearance programme, submitted to the Ministry of Health in 1933, envisaged definite demolition procedure with respect to 47 houses, with a possible extension to a total of 81 in the five years. In  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years those numbers were far exceeded, as 16 houses were dealt with by Demolition or Closing Order procedure between the submission of the programme and the end of 1935. Although indicating that rapid progress has been made, the figures may convey the suggestion that the amount of totally unfit property was under-stated in 1933. As explanation it should be stated that the general inspection made as a preliminary to the programme could only be cursory, and from external appearances. Many of the houses since added to the programme were old, and on being subjected to close detailed internal inspection, the extent and variety of defects and general worn-out condition of the internal structure resulted in the owners agreeing that it would not be an economic proposition to recondition them thoroughly.

A further point for note is that since the passing of the Housing Act, 1930, Demolition or Closing Order procedure has been applied to 187 houses, including the Frindsbury Clearance Area, but there have been no appeals to the Ministry or County Court. In each case the fullest information has been given to owners prior to reports being placed before the Council, and personal negotiations with them have had the satisfactory result just mentioned.

#### BACK-TO-BACK HOUSES.

The City is fortunate in that past demolitions have cleared away most of the back-to-back dwellings that existed to the number of 239 in 1904. The number now existing does not exceed 30. A commencement on these was made during 1935. Two were converted into a satisfactory through-ventilated house, and preliminary procedure was started with respect to six others. In each case detailed particulars for conversion and reconditioning were supplied to the owners by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

#### COMPLAINTS.

476 complaints were received as compared with 417 in 1934. This continued increase in complaints reflects the greater readiness of the citizens to make use of the Department to get unsatisfactory conditions remedied, rather than increased reasons for complaint. Prompt attention is given in all cases, and the only regret to be expressed is that execution of remedial works is in some cases much slower. Apart from difficulties in dealing with owners, some builders with small staffs of workmen accept orders which they cannot possibly carry out without delay. They proceed with the work but withdraw their workmen before completion, and in answer to requests that the remaining work be carried out, they plead that this will mean abandoning other work being done elsewhere under notice. The present shortage of skilled building operatives in the district adds to the difficulties, and to delay in effectiveness of action by this Department.

#### SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

In addition to the 121 houses mentioned under "Housing Act Inspections," action was taken by the Sanitary Inspectors in the Health Department to secure the remedy of various nuisances or unsatisfactory sanitary conditions at 1,868 other premises. This very marked increase on the figures for 1934 is partially explained by special visits commenced in the Autumn of 1935 to give effect to

the Council's decision to enforce the provision of sanitary dustbins for all houses in the City. The summary which follows, gives an indication of the extent and variety of improvements effected and includes work carried out under Housing Act repair notices. In a considerable number of cottages the general re-conditioning cost was from £30 to £50 each, and entailed many and frequent visits to the work while it was in progress.

Allusion has already been made to the matter of dustbins, and attention may be drawn to the record in the summary that 1,101 new sanitary dustbins were provided by owners during the year on my official request. By far the greater number followed the special visits, but the number of these visits was so dislocating other duties of the Sanitary Inspectors that the Council agreed to the temporary appointment of a special assistant for this work to commence in April 1936. This will, of course, also quicken the general provision of sanitary dustbins throughout the City.

## SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

### DRAINAGE AND SANITARY FITTINGS.

Houses re-drained	...	...	...	109
Houses partly re-drained	...	...	...	4
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	7
Drains unstopped and cleansed	...	...	...	207
New ventilated soil pipes fixed	...	...	...	8
New ventshafts fixed	...	...	...	56
Privies abolished and replaced by W.C.'s	...	...	...	4
Insufficient W.C. accommodation	..	...	...	8
New W.C. apartments built	...	...	...	16
W.C.'s. provided with pans and traps	...	...	...	134
Flushing apparatus and water supply provided to W.C.'s.	...	...	...	49
W.C. fittings repaired and cleansed	...	...	...	68
New sinks fixed	...	...	...	46
Trapped wastepipes fixed	...	...	...	107
New lavatory basins and baths fixed	...	...	...	8
Dangerous cesspools filled in	...	...	...	10
New urinals constructed or improved	...	...	...	6
Defective inspection chambers and covers	...	...	...	5
Water tests applied	...	505		
Smoke tests applied	...	121		

### MISCELLANEOUS.

No. of houses demolished	...	...	...	42
No. of houses closed	...	...	...	5
Parts of houses closed	...	...	...	2
Dangerous walls re-constructed and underpinned	...	...	...	7
Water supply laid on in houses	...	...	...	2
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	126
Defective brickwork and pointing of brickwork repaired	...	...	...	75
Guttering or downpipes provided or repaired	...	...	...	97
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	179
Yards repaved	...	...	...	30
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	41
New wash-houses built	...	...	...	3
Concrete floors provided to cellars	...	...	...	5
Defective floors repaired	...	...	...	129
Defective wall and ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	482



Dirty walls cleansed	...	...	...	529
Dirty ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	452
Defective stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	120
Defective windows repaired	...	...	...	143
Lighting and ventilation of rooms improved	...	...	...	54
Houses provided with through ventilation	...	...	...	2
Sub-floor ventilation provided or improved	...	...	...	36
Handrails provided to staircases	...	...	...	69
Ventilated food stores provided or improved	...	...	...	63
Washing coppers provided or repaired	...	...	...	33
Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	...	1101
Dirty houses cleansed (tenants' neglect)	...	...	...	4
Instances of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	21
Number of rooms disinfested	...	...	...	427
Dirty caravans cleansed	...	...	...	4
Nuisances from animals abated	...	...	...	9
Nuisances from manure and refuse abated	...	...	...	16
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	...	...	938
				<hr/>
Total				6,098

#### VERMINOUS DWELLINGS.

137 houses with a total of 427 rooms were treated for infestation with bugs. Of the 61 Council houses dealt with, 33 were subjected to Hydrogen Cyanide fumigation, and the others were thoroughly sprayed with insecticide, followed by intensive sulphur dioxide fumigation. On account of danger to occupants of adjoining houses who could not temporarily vacate their homes, Hydrogen Cyanide Gas fumigation could not be applied to all infested houses. Although the contractors for Hydrogen Cyanide Gas fumigation accept responsibility for declaring the fumigated houses fit for re-occupation, a Sanitary Inspector always attends when the contractors' representative makes his tests.

The furniture and household belongings of all the tenants moved from the Grindsbury and Orchard Clearance Area to new Council houses were treated with Hydrogen Cyanide Gas in the contractors' special vans, and as a precaution against retention of gas, bedding was subsequently passed through the steam disinfectant at St. William's Hospital. It is no exaggeration to say that a considerable number of Council house tenants are now living in vermin-free dwellings for the first time in their lives.

There is good reason for believing that certain Hydrogen Cyanide Gas fumigation experiments carried out in Rochester were, at least in some degree, responsible for the Ministry of Health Circular to all local authorities urging that re-occupation of rooms fumigated with Hydrogen Cyanide Gas should not be permitted for at least 24 hours. In this City 48 hours vacation of the premises was arranged so that for approximately 36 hours after fumigation there is thorough ventilation to clear the premises of the fumigant.

#### CESSPOOL AND PRIVY EMPTYING.

3,370 loads were pumped from cesspools during the course of the year, but this figure includes the emptying of certain road storm-water cesspools. The new Dennis motor vehicle has quickened the work, and at no time has there been any difficulty in coping with the demands for its use. Largely the emptying has been attendant on the abolition of cesspools and the diversion of drains to the sewers, but there are still certain properties, principally on the outlying parts of the city, where cesspools must continue to be receptacles for drainage.

288 loads of sludge were removed from cesspools by the night gang, now

engaged only intermittently on such work, which decreased by about one-third during the past year.

## FOOD INSPECTION.

MEAT. During 1935, the carcasses, etc. of 9,345 animals were inspected the time of slaughter. The figures include those of animals whose carcasses are for the London Market, as from one slaughter house in the City there are regular weekly despatches to that destination. This wholesale slaughtering is frequently done up to late hours and during weekends, and is responsible for much extra duty for inspection purposes. The butchers in the City continue to give a reasonable facilities for inspection, and the list of condemned meat which follows indicates surrenders made by them, on attention being drawn to diseased or unsound conditions in the slaughter houses. The list also includes surrenders of unsound tinned food by other traders.

2 carcasses, etc., of cows	(1 Tuberculosis, 1 Toxæmia)
1 carcase, etc., of heifer	Tuberculosis
1 carcase, etc., of steer	do.
2 carcasses, etc., of calves	(1 Tuberculosis, 1 Pyæmia)
25 carcasses, etc., of pigs	(23 Tuberculosis, 1 Nephritis and Fever, 1 Putrefaction)
14 carcasses, etc., of sheep and lambs	(8 Dropsy and Emaciation, 2 Nephritis and Emaciation, 2 Putrefaction, 1 Suffocation, 1 Peritonitis)
12 Ox heads and tongues	(9 Tuberculosis, 3 Actinomycosis)
26 Ox livers	(17 Flukes, 2 Tuberculosis, 2 Cirrhosis, 4 Abscesses, 1 Cavernous Angioma)
1 Calf's head and tongue	Tuberculosis
108 Pigs' heads and tongues	do.
11 Pigs' plucks	(9 Tuberculosis, 2 Congestion)
52 Pigs' livers	(48 Cirrhosis, 1 Cysts, 2 Fatty Infiltration, 1 Tuberculosis)
129 Sheep and Lambs' livers	(76 Flukes, 53 Other parasites)
6 Sheep plucks	(5 Parasitic, 1 Pericarditis)
193 lbs. Beef	Unsound
95 lbs. Beef	Bone taint
2 Forequarters of Mutton	Unsound
1 Shoulder of Lamb	do.
7 lbs. of Mutton	do.
2 loins of Pork	do.
8 tinned Hams	do.
2 tinned Veals	do.

**MILK.** There are 7 Registered Cowkeepers premises and 17 Retail Dairies in the City and all were subjected to periodic inspection. One cowkeeper's sheds were completely remodelled. The extensive improvements effected included the abolition of all wooden fittings and the substitution of modern tabular steel equipment. At this same farm, a new washing room for utensils was constructed, and fitted with steam boiler and sterilising cabinet.

Certified Milk is produced at one farm, and the producer at another has been successful in qualifying for a Grade A license from the County Council.

There are 12 dairymen with premises outside the City, registered as retailers within the City. Their supplies are periodically sampled and submitted to the Public Analyst for quality tests.

73 shopkeepers, mostly with small "general" shops, are registered for the sale of milk in sealed bottles only. In five years the number has increased 50% and indicates either that the purchasers are selecting bottled sterilised milk in preference to tinned condensed milk, or that the long keeping quality of sterilised milk gives it such preference. Four wholesalers, with premises outside the City, supply this bottled sterilised milk to the retailers.

There is one licensed pasteurising establishment in the City, and the firm owning this were, at the end the year, continuing their progressive policy by installing completely new equipment of the most modern type. One other large dairy pasteurises all milk, but has not applied for a formal license. The two other dairies with smaller plant do not pasteurise their supplies regularly all the year round.

*Bacteriological Tests.* Of the 12 samples of Certified Milk submitted for bacteriological examination, 11 complied fully with the Milk (Special Designations) Order, and one was slightly below the standard in one respect.

15 samples of milk supplied by Rochester dairymen to schools under County Council control were tested at the County laboratory, and 11 were found satisfactory. The four unsatisfactory samples were from one dairyman, who has no pasteuriser, but who was obtaining supplies which were sold to him as pasteurised. Arrangements were made for him to obtain supplies from a pasteurising establishment in the City. All Rochester school supplies are of milk pasteurised within the City.

**BAKEHOUSES.** At the end of the year there were 17 bakehouses on the register, as compared with 18 in 1934. One was of a very unsatisfactory type, and following my representations as to desirable alterations and improvements the new proprietor decided to put the bakehouse into disuse, as he was able to obtain supplies for his shop from another bakery. All the other bakehouses were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

**FRIED FISH SHOPS.** Periodic visits to these premises, of which there are 18, were maintained during the past year, and in a few cases it was necessary to make demands for greater care in cleansing of equipment. On the whole the premises were well kept, and it may be said that in recent years, big advances in hygienic management have been made by the fish fryers in the City. With one exception all have cooking ranges of modern pattern; two ranges fixed during the past year are fitted with combination gas and coke fires, and electric extraction fans for fumes from the cooking pans.



## FOOD & DRUG SAMPLING, 1935.

61 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst, under the Food & Drug Acts and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, and the reports are summarised below :—

Article	Number	Genuine	Adulterated
Milk ...	31	31	—
Coffee ...	5	5	—
Vinegar ...	2	1	1
Butter ...	6	6	—
Lard ...	6	6	—
Sausage ..	3	3	—
Cream ...	1	1	—
Whisky ...	7	5	2

Cautions were given to the vendors of the adulterated articles, as the analyses gave results which did not appear to warrant prosecutions.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The number of premises in the City registered under the Factory and Workshop Act is 83, and in addition there are 15 homes where "outwork" is carried on. Workshop Inspections revealed only minor matters which call for remedy.

2 notices as to sanitary contraventions in factories were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories. In all cases necessary action was taken to cause compliance with the Factory & Workshops Acts.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is still only one on the Register, and this has been carried on with due regard to the Byelaws.

## DISINFECTION.

203 rooms were disinfected under Sanitary Inspectors' supervision after cases of Infectious Disease, including 32 after removal or deaths of cases of Tuberculosis.

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Primary inspections ...	...	1762
House to house inspections ...	...	121
Caravans inspected ...	...	99
Re-inspections ...	...	2742
Drainage surveys and visits to work in progress ...	...	2617
Visits to factories and workshops ...	...	186
"    bakehouses ...	...	85
"    slaughter houses ...	...	865
"    other premises for food inspection ...	...	113
"    cowsheds and dairies ...	...	124
"    offensive trades ...	...	72
"    stables and mews ...	...	111
Visits for food sampling and testing ...	...	84
"    to cases of infectious disease ...	...	350
"    to common lodging houses ...	...	6
"    for water sampling ...	...	15
Miscellaneous visits ...	...	1221
Total ...		10,573

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. TOPPING,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector*

# I. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	22	3	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	164	11	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—
Total ...	186	14	—

## 2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Pro- secutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	2	3	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ...	6	7	—	—
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient ...	2	2	—	—
{ unsuitable or defective ...	6	5	—	—
{ not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences ...	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total ...	16	†*17	—	—

\* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.  
†\* Includes defects found in 1934 and remedied in 1935.

# F. PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASE

## Notifications

	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	Average annual number from 1916 to 1925
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	78	109	129	48	81	105	85	76	53	74	25	43
Diphtheria	71	86	50	15	32	44	62	137	41	30	11	49
Enteric Fever	0	4	0	4	1	0	0	1	4	6	0	5
Puerperal Fever	3	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	·7
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	2	0	3	0	3	1	3	4	2	0	0
Pneumonia	20	35	22	16	12	9	19	7	29	20	25	14·7
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	1·3
Polioencephalitis	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	4	4	1	0	1	0	0	3	4	3	3·2
Erysipelas	12	11	7	7	4	8	12	9	16	7	10	10·5

## Deaths

	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	Average annual number from 1916 to 1925
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	·2
Diphtheria	1	1	3	1	1	1	4	7	0	2	1	6
Enteric Fever	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	·6
Puerperal Fever	3	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	·4
Pneumonia	18	19	20	18	17	14	29	21	15	14	20	22·7
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	2	·5
Polioencephalitis	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	·3

TABLE D.1 NOTIFIABLE CASES DURING THE YEAR 1935

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.												Total Cases Notified in each Locality of the District.		Total Number of Cases removed to St. William's Hospital	Total Deaths	
	At all ages.	At Ages.--Years.															
		Under 1 Year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over				
Small-pox ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Scarlet Fever ... ..	78	0	1	3	6	6	28	24	3	5	1	1	0	47	31	70	0
Diphtheria ... ..	71	0	0	6	2	2	42	10	3	4	1	1	0	18	53	69	1
Pneumonia ... ..	20	5	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	3	1	15	5	0	18
Erysipelas ... ..	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		1	6	1	5	7	0	0
Puerperal Fever ... ..	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis..	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Enteric Fever ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Diseases Notifiable locally ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

In addition to the above figures, 8 cases of wrongly diagnosed Diphtheria, and 4 of wrongly diagnosed Scarlet Fever, were notified during the year. One case of Puerperal Fever occurred in a patient, whose permanent residence was outside the City Area,

TABLE D.2.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DIVIDED INTO WARDS,  
1935.

	Troy Town Ward	Saint Peter's Ward	Saint Margaret's Ward	Saint Nicholas Ward	Strood Ward	Frindsbury Ward	Totals
Scarlet Fever ... ..	4	25	19	0	26	4	78
Diphtheria ... ..	6	11	1	0	50	3	71
Puerperal Fever ... ..	2	0	0	0	1	0	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Erysipelas ... ..	4	3	0	0	5	0	12
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ... ..	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Pneumonia ... ..	1	5	2	7	4	1	20
Enteric Fever ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phthisis ... ..	0	8	0	0	22	0	30
Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	2	3	2	0	6	0	13
Totals ...	19	55	26	7	115	8	230

## BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

The following is a tabulated statement of bacteriological work by the County Laboratory at Maidstone.

	Positive.	Negative.	Total
Diphtheria Bacilli ... ..	120	1008	1128
Tubercle Bacilli ... ..	31	118	149
Hæmolytic Streptococci ... ..	10	25	35
Typhoid Agglutination Tests ... ..	0	1	1
Ringworm ... ..	1	3	4
Totals ...	162	1155	1317

There is a small laboratory at St. William's Hospital which in addition to hospital bacteriological examinations is available for the examination of certain specimens sent by local medical practitioners.

## OBSERVATIONS ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

## PREVENTIVE INOCULATION.

A Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic was opened on September 25th. The immunising agent used is Toxoid Anti-Toxin Floccules, the routine dose being 1 c.c. Three inoculations are given at fortnightly intervals and the Schick test is carried out three to six months after the final inoculation. A preliminary Schick test is not given to children under ten years of age, but is used in older children.

Dick Immunisation is not carried out by the Local Authority, but the Schultze Charlton re-action is used for diagnostic purposes. In certain hospitals and institutions in the district immunisation against Scarlet Fever is in use.

## SMALL-POX.

No case of small-pox has occurred in the district since 1903. The existing arrangement for the admission of cases of small-pox to Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford, would appear to be adequate. Should the unlikely necessity arise, further accommodation is available at St. William's Small-Pox Hospital, Rochester (a semi-permanent building).



The Kent County Council's scheme for Hospital Accommodation under Section 3 of the Local Government Act, 1929, has been accepted by the Rochester Council, with the exception of that part of the scheme which proposes to provide a Small-Pox Hospital at Harpswood for a large area in the north of Kent.

#### SCARLET FEVER.

There were only 78 cases of Scarlet Fever, as compared with 109 in the previous year. The disease remains mild in character in the majority of cases, but a certain number of toxic cases have been met with during the year. Serum treatment is used in all toxic cases.

Eighty-nine per cent. of the total notified cases were admitted to Hospital and the average duration of treatment was 31·8 days.

#### 1 DIPHThERIA.

Seventy-one cases of Diphtheria were notified, as compared with 86 in the previous year. 53 of the 71 cases occurred during the first three months of the year. There was one death.

In the majority of cases prompt anti-toxin treatment was administered, but in a few instances delay occurred in obtaining medical advice.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied free of charge and is available day and night at the Police Headquarters, Guildhall, Rochester. During 1935, 300,000 units of anti-toxin were supplied, at a cost to the Local Authority of £11 19s. 1d.

The Immunisation Clinic was opened on September 25th, and during the year 78 patients were submitted for immunisation.

Schick testing and immunisation material are supplied free to general practitioners who desire to immunise their patients, a complete record of the treatment being kept in the Health Department. In this way 18 patients were immunised and tested.

#### ENTERIC FEVER.

No case of Enteric Fever was reported during the year.

#### PNEUMONIA.

There were only 20 cases of Pneumonia notified during the year, as compared with 35 during the year 1934. 13 of the 20 cases occurred during the first quarter of the year. There were 18 deaths.

Suitable cases of Pneumonia can be admitted to St. William's Hospital, Rochester, and home nursing is provided by the nursing staff of Watts' Charity when required.

#### INFLUENZA.

There were no deaths during the year from Influenza, and as far as can be ascertained there has been no outbreak of this disease in the District during the year.

#### MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

There have been no deaths from either Measles or Whooping Cough during the year. When these diseases are prevalent, suitable cases may be admitted to St. William's Hospital, Rochester.

#### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Only one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified during the year, and the child made a complete recovery.

Home nursing is provided by Watts' Charity and severe cases of the disease are admitted to the Ophthalmic Hospital, Maidstone, by an agreement which has been made between the Local and Hospital Authorities.

## SCHOOL AND OTHER INTIMATIONS OF DISEASE.

Weekly returns from the schools giving the numbers and causes of absences from each school are of particular value in dealing with the control of non-notifiable diseases, and are also a guide as to the amount of sickness in the area. When epidemics are prevalent, infected schools are visited by the medical staff and the children inspected with a view to excluding latent sources of infection in the scholars. In addition, the homes of children who are absent on account of sickness are visited by the School Nurse and Health Visitors, and appropriate advice is given.

When a patient leaves hospital after treatment for infectious disease a report on his illness and condition on discharge is forwarded to the patient's private practitioner, and also to the Health Visitors. By this means continuous supervision, medical and nursing, can be obtained in those patients suffering from any sequelae of infection.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

All specimens are sent to the County Laboratory, Maidstone, and the extent of the work done is shown on page 28.

## DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

These matters have been referred to in previous reports. For particulars of Hydrogen Cyanide fumigation see page 21.

## RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930
Total number of rats destroyed ...	5170	5546	6919	5743	5725	4529
Total number of poison baits laid ...	6610	8331	9497	8517	9386	5639

## INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS.

The arrangements for the treatment of Small-Pox are referred to on page 28.

General Infectious Diseases are admitted to St. William's Hospital, Rochester (Joint Board of Rochester and Chatham), where any type of infection is accepted. Further comments on the use of this hospital are included in this Report on page 47.

Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are admitted to the Ophthalmic Hospital, Maidstone.

Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and Puerperal Fever are sent to the County Hospital, Chatham (an unappropriated "transferred" Institution).

The Institutional treatment of Tuberculosis is shown on page 33.

## CANCER.

### DEATHS, 1926-1935.

Year.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Incidence per 1,000 persons living.
1926	24	29	53	1.6
1927	27	25	52	1.6
1928	19	25	44	1.3
1929	22	22	44	1.3
1930	27	17	44	1.3
1931	21	25	46	1.4
1932	19	21	40	1.3
1933	29	25	54	1.7
1934	27	27	54	1.6
1935	36	24	60	1.7



## TREATMENT FACILITIES.

Modern facilities are available at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, for the surgical treatment of Cancer. Radium treatment in the form of "Radon" is also provided. Last year, when extensive radium treatment was required, patients were referred to the Radium Institute, London, but the facilities for Radium and X-ray treatment of the disease have been increased at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester. Plant for deep X-ray Therapy has been installed and a supply of 250 milligrammes of Radium is in use at this hospital.

**Table E. Cancer Mortality according to Site and Age.**

Localisation.	5-15 yrs.		15-25 yrs.		25-45 yrs.		45-65 yrs.		65 yrs. and upwards.		Totals	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Buccal Cavity ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	1	5	—	14	1
Stomach, Liver, etc.	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	3	7	6	12	10
Peritoneum, intestines and rectum	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	4	3	7	5
Female genital organs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	—	5
Breast ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	3
Skin ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Unclassified ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—
Totals ...	—	—	—	—	2	1	16	11	18	12	36	24

## PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action has been taken during the year under Sec. 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eye.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925 (relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

**TUBERCULOSIS IN 1935.**  
**NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1935.**

TABLE F.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
1—5	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
5—10	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	...	3	1	1	...	2	...	...
15—20	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	...
20—25	2	3	1	...	1	...	...	...
25—35	4	5	1	1	6	2	...	...
35—45	2	1	...	...	1	3	...	...
45—55	1	2	1	...	1	2	...	...
55—65	3	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Totals ...	15	15	11	2	14	10	2	...

THE NOTIFICATIONS OF DEATHS WERE DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS :

	South	North	Totals
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	12	12	24
Non-respiratory do ...	1	1	2
Totals ...	13	13	26

The average numbers of notifications and deaths from Respiratory and Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis for the preceding 5 years are as follows:

	Respiratory Tuberculosis		Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	
	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths
Average for preceding 5 years ...	32.2	23.4	8.4	3.4
1935 ...	30	24	13	2

One hundred and forty-nine specimens of sputum were submitted during the year to bacteriological examination, with 31 positive, and 118 negative results.

The following information has been courteously supplied by Dr. Roper, the County Tuberculosis Officer for this District:—

Particulars of patients from the Rochester District who were dealt with at the County Tuberculosis Dispensary during the year ended December 31st, 1935.

Number of New Cases ... ..	107
Total number of Attendances (old and new) ... ..	698
Number sent to Institutions ... ..	29

Diagnosis—New Patients	Excluding School Children	School Children (Age 5 to 14)
Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ..	19	4
Surgical do. ... ..	6	7
Other Diseases (including Tonsils and Adenoids) ... ..	8	3
No Disease ... ..	34	24
Under Observation, 31.12.35 ... ..	—	2
	<hr/> 67	<hr/> 40

Institutions to which patients were sent during 1935:—

Lenham Sanatorium 10; Sevenoaks Hospital 1; King Edward VII, Midhurst, 1; Preston Hall 2; St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, 1; Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate, 1; Alexandra Hospital, Swanley, 1; Keycol Hill Sanatorium 3; Grosvenor Sanatorium 4; Eversfield Chest Hospital 2; Victoria Home, Margate, 1; City of London Hospital 1; Haslemere Sanatorium 1.

TABLE G. REGISTER OF TUBERCULOSIS IN 1935.

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Cases notified during the year 1935 ... ..	15	15	11	2	43
Cases transferred from other districts during the year 1935 ... ..	3	0	4	0	7
Cases removed to other districts during the year 1935 ... ..	6	0	1	2	9
Cases recovered during the year 1935 ... ..	1	1	1	5	8
Deaths during the year 1935 ... ..	14	10	2	0	26
Cases on Register on 31st December, 1935 ... ..	64	37	43	13	157

#### VENEREAL DISEASES.

Sessions are held at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, 36, New Road, Rochester, on Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 6.45 p.m., and on Thursdays from 11.15 a.m. to 2 p.m., and new patients are seen at any time. This information is made known by means of posters and leaflets, and through the various other clinics, doctors and nurses.

The clinic is under the administration of the Kent County Council and is conducted by Mr. Hamish Nicol, F.R.C.S. It serves a considerable area, and the following details refer only to patients from Rochester.

#### NEW PATIENTS.

	Male	Female	All Cases
Syphilis ... ..	8	3	19
Soft ... ..	Nil	Nil	4
Gonorrhoea ... ..	32	10	33
Non. Spec. V.D. and N.V. ... ..	8	5	16
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ... ..	48	18	72
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Total Attendances, 2,953.

The number of new cases in the previous ten years beginning in 1925 was 5, 61, 32, 50, 103, 56, 55, 88, 67, and 47.

Lectures arranged by the Kent County Council were given during the year in co-operation with the British Social Hygiene Council, with the object of making the dangers of untreated Venereal Disease more generally known.

### DEATHS FROM NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926
Measles ... ..	0	3	0	2	2	0	8	0	0	9
Whooping Cough	0	2	0	0	1	1	3	0	2	3
Diarrhoea										
(under 2 years)	5	2	1	2	0	1	6	4	3	4
Influenza ... ..	0	3	13	4	19	6	20	5	20	5

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The following Table gives details as to Infant Mortality in 1935:—

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age.

TABLE H.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 24 hours	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	Over 1 and under 3 months	Over 3 and under 6 months	Over 6 and under 9 months	Over 9 and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Premature Birth ... ..	3	3	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	7
Injury at Birth ... ..	2	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Marasmus, Inanition and Malnutrition ...	0	1	1	1	0	3	1	2	1	0	7
Congenital Deformity ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Pneumonia ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
Bronchitis ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Gastro Enteritis ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	4
Other Causes ... ..	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	2	6
All Causes ... ..	5	5	2	3	0	15	4	6	5	4	34

Nett Births 521.

Nett Deaths registered 34.



# CITY OF ROCHESTER SCHEME FOR THE PROVISION OF ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE CITY OF ROCHESTER.

## 1. OBJECTS.

To ensure that the care of a patient during pregnancy shall, whenever possible, be undertaken by the person or persons who will be responsible for the delivery.

To ensure that every pregnant woman shall receive sufficient ante-natal care from a Doctor and a Midwife working in co-operation with each other, and with the Maternity section of the Public Health Department.

To provide hospital accommodation, laboratory facilities, supply of maternity outfits, food and milk in necessitous cases, and dental treatment where necessary.

To provide a post-natal examination by a medical practitioner in every case not earlier than 28 days after confinement.

## 2. PATIENTS ACCEPTED UNDER THE SCHEME.

The scheme is available for expectant and nursing mothers who have not made arrangements privately, who are not insured under the National Health Insurance Act, who are residents of the City of Rochester, and who are in necessitous circumstances.

## 3. MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AND MIDWIVES AVAILABLE.

The following is a list of medical practitioners and midwives whose services are available to expectant and nursing mothers for ante-natal and post-natal supervision:—

### *Medical Practitioners.*

Dr. A. Blair, 42, North Street, Strood.  
Dr. W. S. Donaldson, 42, North Street, Strood.  
Dr. W. Stanley Donaldson, 35, City Way, Rochester.  
Dr. Anne Duguid, Avenue House, Rochester.  
Dr. William Duguid, Avenue House, Rochester.  
Dr. S. Gifford, 7, Castlevie Road, Strood.  
Dr. E. C. Gross, Grove House, Rochester.  
Dr. Dorothy Howgate, 18, New Road, Rochester.  
Dr. H. G. Rickman, 7, Castlevie Road, Strood.  
Dr. J. S. Edwards, 15, London Road, Strood.

### *Midwives.*

Mrs. Bilney, 14, Foord Street, Rochester.  
Mrs. Foster, 2, Kitchener Road, Strood.  
Miss Johnson, 16, Victoria Street, Rochester.  
Mrs. Offord, Rose Cottage, Upnor.  
Mrs. Rich, 144, Gordon Road, Strood.  
Mrs. Ross, "Romany Rye," Jersey Road, Strood.  
Mrs. Sheath, 1, St. Catherine's, North Halling.  
Miss Buckland, 1, Dickens Terrace, Wainscott.  
Mrs. Sweeting, Fern Cottage, Wainscott.

The patient shall have a free choice of any Doctor or Midwife on these lists.

If the services of a Consultant are required by the general practitioner, the latter may call in (after communicating with the Medical Officer of Health) any of the consultants appointed under this scheme, viz.:—

Mr. E. J. Greenwood, 14, Star Hill, Rochester.  
Mr. C. White, 22, Star Hill, Rochester.  
Mr. A. W. G. Woodforde, 30, Maidstone Road, Rochester.

#### 4. MIDWIVES' OBLIGATION.

Midwives must persuade all their patients who have not engaged a Doctor during the ante-natal or post-natal period to avail themselves of ante-natal medical supervision as provided under the scheme.

#### 5. MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS' OBLIGATION.

Where a woman engages a Doctor for her ante-natal supervision and confinement and is unable also to pay the fee of a midwife to act as a Maternity nurse, the medical practitioner must encourage the employment of midwives in such cases, a contribution to whose fee or the whole fee will be made by the Local Authority.

#### 6. ENGAGEMENT OF DOCTOR.

Medical Practitioners may accept cases under the scheme provided such cases comply with the conditions laid down in paragraph 2 of this scheme. Upon a patient attending the medical practitioner, the latter must notify the Medical Officer of Health, Saye House, Castle Hill, Rochester, in order that enquiries into financial and other circumstances of the patient may be made.

#### 7. EXAMINATIONS BY DOCTOR.

The examinations shall be on the lines indicated in Schedule A attached to this scheme.

Normally there will be three medical examinations, viz.:—one at or about the sixteenth week of pregnancy (general medical examination), the second at or about the thirty-second week of pregnancy (obstetrical examination), and one post-natal examination to be carried out not earlier than twenty-eight days after the confinement.

#### 8. RECORDS.

Records of all examinations must be kept by the medical practitioner, and after the final examination they must be forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health, Saye House, Castle Hill, Rochester. Records should be kept on the prescribed form shown in Schedule B.

#### 9. SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR COMPLICATED CASES.

Complicated cases can be admitted to hospital and the services of a Consultant provided, upon application being made to the Medical Officer of Health.

##### *Hospitals.*

For non-infectious cases—Canada House, Gillingham.

For infectious cases—Medway Hospital, Chatham.

Pathological and clinical specimens for laboratory diagnosis will be sent to the County Laboratory, Sessions House, Maidstone.

Dental treatment will be provided, where necessary, upon application being made to the Medical Officer of Health.

*Dental Clinic.* Strood House, Rochester.

*Dentist.* Mr. S. White.

Suspected or actual cases of Tuberculosis or Venereal Disease shall be referred to the appropriate clinics:—

*Tuberculosis Clinic.* 13, New Road, Rochester.

*Venereal Diseases Clinic.* 36, New Road, Rochester.

#### 10. APPOINTMENTS AND PLACES OF EXAMINATION.

There must be a system of appointments, and a Doctor and Midwife should be present at each of the medical and obstetrical examinations. The examination should be carried out at the home of the patient or at the surgery of the medical practitioner or at other suitable premises. If the patient fails to keep an appointment, the fact should be notified to the Medical Officer of Health, who will arrange for the "following" up by a Health Visitor, if the Midwife does not do so herself.

## 11. SUBSIDIARY SERVICES.

Sterilised maternity outfits will be provided at cost price or, in necessitous cases, free, if in the opinion of the medical practitioner such outfits are necessary for the satisfactory conduct of the confinement.

Where, in the opinion of the medical practitioner, extra nourishment for the maintenance of the health of the mother or child is necessary, milk will be provided free or at cost price, subject to the operation of the scale of income and other conditions which apply to the supply of Dried Milk.

## 12. DATE OF COMMENCEMENT.

This scheme became operative on April 1st, 1935.

## NOTES.

It is essential to secure the co-operation of the Doctors practising in the District in persuading their patients to accept the services of a trained midwife for the maternity nursing.

Similarly the co-operation of midwives is essential in persuading their patients to accept the services of a skilled medical practitioner for ante-natal and post-natal supervision.

There must also be close and harmonious relations between all parties concerned—the patient, medical practitioner, midwife, Health Department staff, hospital and Consultant.

This Scheme will not in any way supersede the routine ante-natal and natal care and instruction for expectant and nursing mothers given by midwives, which the latter are bound to give under the rules of the C.M.B. and the Midwives Acts.

The medical examinations are supplementary to the midwives' duties, and do not in any way exonerate them from their professional and statutory obligations.

The treatment of abnormal conditions is not included in this scheme. If abnormalities are found, the midwife is obliged to call in a medical practitioner, the fee for whose services will be payable by the Local Supervising Authority. The Doctor called in by the midwife for any abnormal condition should, of course, be the one who has been responsible for the ante-natal supervision.

The three examinations mentioned in Schedule A are in the nature of preventive examinations and are paid for by the Rochester Council. If treatment by a general practitioner is required, fees are payable under the Midwives Act by the Kent County Council. Under the local scheme, however, hospital treatment and the services of a Consultant are available and paid for by the Local Authority.

## SCHEME FOR THE DENTAL TREATMENT OF NURSING AND EXPECTANT MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE.

### 1. DENTAL CLINIC.

The Clinic used for diagnosis and treatment will be the same as is in use by the Education Authority at Strood House, Rochester.



The Scheme is available for Expectant and Nursing mothers, and children under 5 years of age, who are referred for treatment by the Medical Officer of Health, or a practitioner appointed under the scheme for ante-natal care of expectant mothers. It is only available for residents of Rochester who are in necessitous circumstances.

## 2. DENTIST.

The Dentist under this Scheme will be the dentist appointed for School Dentistry by the Education Authority.

## 3. DUTIES OF DENTIST.

Before treatment, other than urgent treatment, is carried out on any patient the Dentist will submit to the Committee an estimate of the cost of the treatment and work which he intends to carry out on each patient. Until such estimate has been accepted by the Committee, no financial obligation will be incurred. The Dentist shall perform all fillings and necessary extractions, he will prepare the mouths of those mothers who require artificial dentures, take impressions of the mouths for the purpose, make the necessary dentures and fit them as soon as possible. Upon completion of treatment of any patient he will inform the Medical Officer of Health of such fact, and will submit his account as soon as possible. The Dentist will administer local anæsthesia but not general anæsthesia. General anæsthesia will be administered by the Medical Practitioner responsible for the ante-natal or post-natal supervision of the mother or the medical care of the child.

## 4. SCALE OF CHARGES.

The scale of charges will be such as may be decided by the Council.

# CITY OF ROCHESTER SCHEME FOR THE PROVISION OF HOSPITAL TREATMENT FOR MATERNITY CASES.

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The Scheme is limited to residents of the City of Rochester, and is available only for persons who are unable to make arrangements for treatment privately. The whole or part of the cost will be recovered from the patient, or her next of kin or guardian, the proportion of the cost recovered being based on a scale of charges fixed according to the family income.

## A. NORMAL CASES.

### 1. BY PRIVATE ARRANGEMENT.

Pregnant women in necessitous circumstances desiring hospital treatment by private arrangement, may obtain admission to Canada House, Gillingham, at a reduced fee, graded according to income. Applications for treatment at reduced fees must be made to the Medical Officer of Health, Castle Hill, Rochester, or to the Matron, Canada House, Barnsole Road, Gillingham.



#### . BY LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Normal cases desiring hospital treatment through the Local Authority, will be admitted to Canada House, Gillingham. Application for admission must be made to the Medical Officer of Health, Castle Hill, Rochester.

If the services of a general practitioner are required for a patient admitted as normal and subsequently requiring medical attention, medical aid will be called by the Matron, Canada House, Gillingham, in accordance with the Midwives' Act and the Rules of the C.M.B.

If a normal case develops complications which require the services of a Consultant, the Medical Practitioner in charge of the patient can, upon application to the Medical Officer of Health, obtain the services of a Consultant in the same manner and under the same conditions as in the case of the Scheme for complicated cases. (See Par. C.)

#### B. ABNORMAL MEDICAL CASES.

These cases requiring hospital treatment during pregnancy will be admitted to Canada House, Gillingham, upon application being made to the Medical Officer of Health. Medical treatment will be provided under the Midwives' Act.

#### C. ABNORMAL OBSTETRIC CASES requiring special treatment and the services of a Consultant.

The services of a Consultant will only be provided if, in the opinion of the medical practitioner attending the case, such services are necessary.

Such abnormal cases will be admitted to Canada House, Gillingham.

Before a Consultant is called in, the Medical Officer of Health must be informed. In the event of an emergency, the Consultant may be called in forthwith, but the Medical Officer must be informed of the fact within 24 hours.

The anaesthetist will be called in under the Midwives' Act, 1918.

#### D. ABNORMAL LYING-IN CASES.

Such cases will be admitted to Canada House, Gillingham. Medical attendance to be provided under the Midwives' Act, 1918. Consultant services to be provided, if necessary, as indicated in Par. C.

#### E. PUERPERAL PYREXIA, PUERPERAL FEVER AND OTHER INFECTIOUS CASES.

These cases will be admitted to the County Hospital, Chatham, under the Poor Law Regulations.

## HOME HELPS.

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1. Home Helps will be available at and after confinement for residents of the City of Rochester who are in necessitous circumstances. The duties and regulations governing the work of Home Helps are attached to this Scheme.
2. The Home Helps will be provided by the Trustees of Watts' Charity, Rochester.
3. In all cases, application for Home Helps must be made to the Medical Officer of Health, Saye House, Castle Hill, Rochester.
4. Home Helps will only be available for persons whose nett income is within the scale of income prescribed by arrangement between Watts' Charity and Rochester Corporation.
5. The services of Home Helps will be provided free in all cases accepted under the Scheme.

The duties and conditions of service of Home Helps are as follows :—

- (a) The Home Help will attend at the home where a confinement has taken place for a period not exceeding 21 days after the confinement.
  - (b) During these days, she will arrive at the house at 8 a.m. and leave at 5 p.m., during which period, she will be off duty from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. On Sundays she will attend from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.
6. The Home Help will provide and cook her own food. She will also cook for the family and give general supervision to the children, preparing them for school and putting them to bed, if necessary.
  7. The Home Help will be responsible for keeping the house clean and in good order. She must not interfere in any way with the instructions of the Doctor or Midwife.
  8. The Home Help will not wash the patient, nor make her bed, nor undertake any duties of the Nurse.
  9. The Home Help will undertake any domestic children's washing which may be reasonably required.
  10. The Home Help must not discuss the family affairs or the domestic conditions of any household where she may be employed.
  11. The work of the Home Helps will be under the supervision of the Senior Nurses (Watts') and appointed members of the Watts' Charity Committee to whom they should report in any matter of difficulty or doubt.
  12. The Health Visitors employed by the City of Rochester will be permitted to visit the homes in which the Home Helps are employed and to report to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee on the general working of the Scheme. The Health Visitors will not, however, have any executive power over the Nurses and Home Helps employed by Watts' Charity, and will not give orders or issue instructions to them.

## HEALTH VISITORS' ANNUAL REPORT, 1935.

During the year 477 births were registered in the District, of which 13 were illegitimate. The total was made up as follows:—

			Males	Females	Total
South	...	...	131	115	246
North	...	...	118	113	231
			<hr/> 249	<hr/> 228	<hr/> 477

The total number of births (corrected for inward and outward transfer) in the City was 521 (R.G.'s figure).

### NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

558 births were notified under the Act, of which 16 were still-births. The notifications were made up as follows:—

Doctors	Midwives	Parents
233	322	3

551 infants were visited by the Nurses, who paid a total of 2,937 visits, or an average of 5.3 visits to each infant.

The following Table affords particulars respecting the infants visited:—

Infants visited during 1935: Total number, 551.

	Total	Percentage
KIND OF FEEDING.		
1. Entirely breast-fed ... ..	355	64.4
2. Hand and breast-fed ... ..	31	5.6
3. Entirely hand-fed ... ..	165	29.9
KIND OF FOOD (when hand-fed).		
1. Fresh Cows' Milk and Water ... ..	15	2.7
2. Dried Milk ... ..	118	21.4
3. Patent Foods ... ..	24	4.3
4. Condensed Milk ... ..	39	7.0
MODE OF FEEDING.		
Boat-shaped bottle ... ..	196	35.5
CONDITION OF HOUSE.		
1. Clean ... ..	481	87.2
2. Fairly Clean ... ..	61	11.0
3. Dirty ... ..	6	1.0
4. Very Dirty ... ..	3	.5

### OVERCROWDED HOUSES.

More than two persons per bedroom: Total, 129; Percentage, 23.4.

All infants reckoned breast-fed in the above Table were still fed in the same way at or about the age of six months.

There were four pairs of twins.

Forty-five cases not notified under the Act were visited and are included in the above figures.

In two instances the Nurses were refused admission.

There were 34 deaths of infants under one year of age. This gives a mortality rate per thousand births of 65·3.

Sixty-eight inward transfers of children under five years of age were received during the year, 22 of whom were under one year of age and 46 over one year of age.

### BIRTHS OCCURRING IN THE CITY.

Two births occurred in houses of one apartment, 31 occurred in houses of two apartments, 30 in houses of three apartments, 186 in houses of four apartments, and 234 in houses of five apartments and over.

### BIRTHS IN HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES.

Number in Nursing Homes ... ..	56
Number in Hospitals ... ..	16
Number occurring in Nursing Homes in the City Area ...	15
Number occurring in Hospital in the City Area ... ..	8

### MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER.

154 new applications were received for the supply of dried milk free or at a reduced price, and the following particulars are given regarding these applications.

Dried Milk supplied to Expectant Mothers ... ..	51
do. Nursing Mothers ... ..	41
do. Artificially-fed Infants ... ..	34
do. Children between 1 & 5 years of age ... ..	28
	<hr/>
	154

At the end of the year there were 168 cases receiving milk free of cost, and 5 cases at a reduced price.

During the year under report 9,228 lbs. of dried milk were distributed free of cost and 247 lbs. at less than cost price.

### INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The Infant Life Protection Visitors are the two Health Visitors employed by the Local Authority. During the year 76 visits were paid by the Health Visitors.

The following notices were received during the year:—

Reception of Nurse Child ... ..	7
Change of Address ... ..	6
	<hr/>
	13

At the end of the year there were 17 children on the register.

### CLASSIFICATION OF VISITS PAID DURING 1935.

First visits to Infants under 1 year ... ..	551
Subsequent visits to Infants under 1 year ... ..	2386
Infectious Disease visits ... ..	6
Visits of Enquiry into Still-births ... ..	14
Infants' Deaths enquired into ... ..	19
Children's Deaths enquired into ... ..	2
Registered Nursing Homes visited ... ..	4
Infant Life Protection—Number of visits ... ..	76



Ante-Natal visits	...	...	...	...	253
Children visited between 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	...	3452
Special visits	...	...	...	...	154
Visits of Enquiry under the Midwives' Act	...	...	...	...	9
do. re Home Helps	...	...	...	...	73
do. re Maternity Benefit	...	...	...	...	6
do. re Doctors' Assistance	...	...	...	...	86
do. re Midwives' Assistance	...	...	...	...	7
do. re Dental Cases	...	...	...	...	42
do. re Milk Forms	...	...	...	...	10
Visits to take swabs, re Contact Cases	...	...	...	...	14
Miscellaneous and Ineffectual Visits	...	...	...	...	967
Total					8131

The following Table shows the number of cases seen by the Medical Officer of Health.

Infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	129
Children between 1 and 2 years of age	...	...	...	...	85
Children between 2 and 3 years of age	...	...	...	...	62
Children between 3 and 5 years of age	...	...	...	...	74
Ante-Natal Cases	...	...	...	...	45
Post-Natal Cases	...	...	...	...	19
Nursing Mothers	...	...	...	...	51
Dental Cases	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous Interviews	...	...	...	...	15
Total					486

Twenty of the mothers and children seen by the Medical Officer were sent to their private doctors or to St. Bartholomew's Hospital for treatment.

#### ATTENDANCES AT MILK DISTRIBUTING CENTRE, 1935.

Infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	2741
Children between 1 and 5 years of age	...	...	...	...	739
Ante-Natal Cases	...	...	...	...	110
Infant Life Protection	...	...	...	...	17
Dental Cases	...	...	...	...	6
Applications for Home Helps	...	...	...	...	3
Applications for Doctors' Assistance	...	...	...	...	9
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	186
Total					3811

Hospital Tickets were given in 28 necessitous cases.

One inquest was attended.

Two cases of neglected children were reported to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Number of Clinics attended :

Medical Officer of Health Clinics	...	...	...	46
Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics	...	...	...	18
Dental Clinics	...	...	...	13
				—
			Total ...	77
				—

Number of Children visited :

Under one year of age	...	...	...	...	551
One to two years of age	...	...	...	...	467
Two to three years of age	...	...	...	...	410
Three to five years of age	...	...	...	...	1150
					—
			Total ...		2578
					—

Eleven children over five years and under nine years were visited under the Children Act.

### NUMBER OF FIRST ATTENDANCES AT THE MILK DISTRIBUTING CENTRE.

Children under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	333
Children between 1 and 5 years of age	...	...	...	...	185
Ante-Natal Cases	...	...	...	...	73

### SPECIAL REPORTS.

The following Special Reports have been submitted to the Rochester Council throughout the year:—

- Report on Diphtheria Immunisation.
- Report on the Administration of the Midwives' Act.
- Reports on Shellfish Purification.
- Report on Cyanide Fumigation in Bug Deinfestation.
- Report on the Issue of Deratisation and Exemption Certificates under Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention of Paris, 1926.
- Report on Ante-Natal Care.
- Report on Dental Treatment of Expectant Mothers and pre-School Children.
- Report on Municipal Maternity Centres.
- Report on the Housing Act, 1935.
- Report on Re-housing under the Housing Act, 1935.
- Reports on Preventive Medicine in pre-School Children.

### EXTENSIONS OR ADDITIONS IN THE HEALTH PROVISIONS OF THE CITY.

The following additional medical services or health provisions have been made during the year by the Corporation:—

- The Frindsbury Clearance Area Order was confirmed by the Minister of Health and the buildings demolished.
- 346 new houses were built by the Corporation and by private enterprise.
- A new Open Air Swimming Pool was opened on the Esplanade.

Priestfield Playing Fields were purchased from the Trustees of Watts' Charity.

A scheme was initiated for the provision of Sanitary Dustbins in every house. A Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic was opened.

Dental Treatment became available for Expectant Mothers and Children under five years of age.

The treatment of Ear, Nose and Throat Defects in children under five years of age was provided.

A scheme for the Prevention of Deafness in children was established.

Medical Care was provided for Expectant and Nursing Mothers.

Consultants, Hospital Treatment, Home Helps and Maternity Outfits became available for maternity cases where necessary.

Improved Mortuary Accommodation was arranged by agreement with the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester.

Arrangements were made with the Port of London Sanitary Authority for the issue of Deratisation and Exemption Certificates to the Medway shipping.

In addition, voluntary organisations have made several provisions, including the following:—

A new Ambulance was provided for the Rochester St. John Ambulance Brigade.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital erected two very modern operating theatres, and a fracture theatre, extended the facilities for X-ray and Radium Treatment, and they are now building new wards.

### LEGISLATION.

The Croydon Corporation Bill was opposed by the Rochester Council. The House of Commons Committee did not approve the Croydon proposal relating to the sinking of wells in the County of Kent.

#### ROCHESTER CORPORATION BILL.

During the year the Council resolved to take steps for the promotion of such a Bill as to enable the Corporation to acquire the Higham and Hundred of Hoo Water Company, and to consider the question of a General Bill.

#### SEC. 63, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1929.

The scheme for the provision of hospital accommodation for infectious diseases proposed by the Kent County Council came up for consideration. Briefly the proposal of the Kent County Council for the three Medway Towns is firstly to treat the ordinary infectious diseases at St. William's Hospital, and secondly to provide a Small-Pox Hospital at Harpswood to deal with all Small-Pox cases from a large area, which includes the Medway towns.

Rochester Council approved the scheme, with the exception of that part of it relative to the provision of a Small-Pox Hospital at Harpswood, because the Council already has made adequate arrangements to deal with Small-Pox.

#### MINISTRY OF HEALTH SURVEY ON THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

##### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1929

An official survey of the local health and ancillary services was made in October and November, 1935, by the Ministry of Health. The observations of the Minister have not yet been presented to the Council.

TABLE I.  
CAUSES OF DEATH IN ROCHESTER IN 1935.  
CIVILIANS ONLY.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>							<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	...	208	132
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3. Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4. Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
6. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7. Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8. Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
9. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	10
10. Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
11. Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
12. General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
13. Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	36	24
14. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5
15. Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	14
16. Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	51	52
17. Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
18. Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
19. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	3
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	12
21. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
22. Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	—
23. Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
24. Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
25. Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
26. Other diseases of liver, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
27. Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
28. Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	2
29. Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
30. Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31. Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	12
32. Senility	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	11
33. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
34. Other violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	1
35. Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	18
36. Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above).								
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year:								
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	16
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	15
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Live Births:								
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	270	251
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	259	243
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	8
Stillbirths:								
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	8
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
POPULATION	...	...	...	...	...	...	34480	



## REPORT AS TO ST. WILLIAM'S HOSPITAL FOR THE YEAR 1935

247 patients were admitted during the year.

The following Table shews the total admissions from each District in the last 9 years :—

Year	Rochester	Chatham	Gillingham	Other Authorities	Totals
1927	78	295	139	11	523
1928	155	263	246	35	699
1929	132	128	202	15	477
1930	119	108	84	16	327
1931	104	70	54	4	232
1932	55	131	11	1	198
1933	131	140	0	28	325
1934	162	123	0	16	301
1935	160	64	0	23	247

The average yearly number for the ten years preceding 1927 was 288·4.

The average yearly number for the last 9 years, including 1935, was 369·9.

The following table shews the total admissions in 1935 :—

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	T.B. Tuberculous	Measles	Totals
Rochester	68	90	0	1	1	160
Chatham	36	25	3	0	0	64
Other Authorities	16	6	0	0	1	23
Total	120	121	3	1	2	247
Deaths	0	4	0	0	0	4

The operation of tracheotomy for Laryngeal Diphtheria was performed on occasions during the year, and other operations were performed on 3 occasions.

### ACCOMMODATION

See Table on page 9.

### NUMBER OF DAYS DETAINED IN HOSPITAL

#### AVERAGES

	In 1935	In 1934	In 1933	In 1932
Scarlet Fever	31·8	35·7	36·6	36·1
Diphtheria	26·4	33·3	27·3	25
Typhoid Fever	47·3	31·2	—	63·8
Measles	33·5	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	22	—	—	—

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL OFFICER, CITY OF ROCHESTER,

For the Year Ending 31st December, 1935.

## I. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT SANITARY DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR 1935.

TABLE A.

			No. inspected		Number reported to be defective.	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Sanitary Inspector.			
		Number.	Tonnage.				
Foreign	Steamers	281	291206	22	257	76	75
	Motor	89		7	89	5	5
	Sailing	0		—	—	0	0
	Fishing	0		—	—	0	0
Total Foreign		370		29	346	81	80
Coastwise	Steamers	456	284666	12	441	87	86
	Motor	328		5	328	30	29
	Sailing	113		0	109	31	30
	Fishing	26		1	12	0	0
Total Coastwise		923		18	890	148	145
Total Foreign and Coastwise		1293	575872	47	1236	229	225

Three vessels were reported as having, or having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board. All notices were informal.

Inspection of vessels engaged in Estuarial Traffic, 670. These figures represent inspections only, as no record is obtained of barges, etc., trading between places on this river and the London river.

Total inspections of all craft—1,963.

## II. CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

TABLE B.

### a) PASSENGER TRAFFIC DURING 1935:—

No. of Passengers.	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Transmigrants.
Inwards	0	0	0	0
Outwards	0	0	0	0

The passenger traffic of the Port is confined entirely to day trips between this port and various British and Continental seaside resorts.

### b) CARGO TRAFFIC:—

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS. Wood Pulp, Coal, Timber, China Clay, Stone, Crude Oil, Petrol, Iron Ore, Potatoes, Flour, Grain, Cattle Food, Oats, various Seeds and Minerals for the making of Cattle Food, Fertilizers, Cotton Seed, and Beet Sugar.

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS. Cement, Cattle Cake, Vegetable Oil, Paper, Fruit Boxes, Scrap Iron, Bitumen bi-products of petrol refining.

Cement and Paper are shipped to practically all parts of the world, usually via London, Southampton, Liverpool, etc.

### c) COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THE PORT PRINCIPALLY TRADES:—

Import trade is carried on with Scandinavian, French, Dutch, Belgian, German, Estonian, Latvian and Baltic Ports, and with West African, West Indian, South American and North American Ports.

The principal British Ports with which trade is carried on are Blythe, Keadby, Grimsby Harbour, Tyne, Tees, the Scottish East Coast Coal Ports, Liverpool, Swansea, Barry, the Welsh Stone Ports, Channel Islands and the Cornish Stone and China Clay Ports.

## NUMBER AND NATIONALITY OF VESSELS.

British 918, Dutch 160, Norwegian 45, Swede 76, Finn 34, Dane 30, Estonian 1, German 12, Latvian 3, Belgian 1.

## III. SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY.

(a) FOR THE PORT. There are two sources of supply. The South side of the river is supplied by the Chatham and District Water Company, and the North side by the Strood Water Works, the latter being the property of the Corporation of Rochester.

(b) FOR SHIPPING. The supply is from the same sources.

(c) WATER BOAT. One Water Boat is used for supplying the shipping. This craft is inspected at frequent intervals. The tanks are kept in a satisfactory condition and have been cement-washed four times during the year.

## IV. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The arrangements for dealing with Infectious Diseases were fully described in the Report for 1927 and have undergone no change.

TABLE C.

## Cases of Infectious Disease landed from Vessels.

Disease.	No. of Cases during 1935.		Average No. of Cases for previous 5 years.	No. of Vessels concerned.
	Passengers.	Crew.		
Measles	—	1	Nil.	1
Pneumonia	—	1	Nil.	1
Malaria	—	1	Nil.	1
	—	3	2.84	3

Two cases of Malaria were treated on board pending the vessel's departure for her home port.

TABLE D.

## Cases of Infectious Disease occurring during the voyage, but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease.	No. of Cases during 1935.		Average No. of Cases for previous 5 years.	No. of Vessels concerned.
	Passengers.	Crew.		
—	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0



## V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

1. The steps taken for the detection of Rodent Plague in the ships in the Port and in warehouses, wharves, etc., in the vicinity are the same as those described in the Report for 1929. Every person concerned with shipping is made aware of the importance of reporting the finding of dead or dying rats and mice. Sickness or death amongst rodents on board vessels is also dealt with in the "Declaration of Health" certificate.

2. Except in special circumstances no measures are taken to prevent the passage of rats from ship to shore. The majority of vessels that lay alongside the wharves on the river are home traders of 1,000 tons and under. The cargoes of these vessels consist usually of commodities and material that do not harbour rats—stone, coal, gypsum, etc. The crews of the smaller craft that bring cargoes that have formed part of the cargo of a larger vessel from a foreign port, and therefore likely to be a potential source of rat importation, are warned of the risk they incur by allowing rats to remain alive on their craft. As these vessels are small and of simple arrangement as far as cargo and crew accommodation are concerned, it is impossible for rats to remain for any length of time without being detected. Sooner or later they begin to raid the food stores of the small crew and are speedily hunted down and exterminated.

The larger foreign-going vessels lay at deep water berths out in the stream. These vessels are discharged into lighters. There is, therefore, no direct communication between the ship and the shore, and the orthodox precautions in the shape of lighted gangways, tarred beams, etc., are not practicable in the case of these vessels, the majority of which are from Scandinavian Ports.

Vessels from African Ports which arrive at infrequent intervals are also discharged at buoys out in the stream. These vessels are, in the majority of cases, visited frequently whilst in the Port and are kept under general observation both as regards rats and the health of the crew, as the latter remain on board and are not paid off until the vessel proceeds to her home port. Vessels from tropical ports bringing crude oil are discharged into lighters whilst moored out in the stream. The banks of the river at this point consist largely of marshland and are almost devoid of commercial structures or habitation.

The Port is not authorised to issue certificates under Article 28, Paris Convention, but arrangements have been made with the Medical Officer of the Port of London to issue such certificates in cases where it is impracticable for the vessel concerned to proceed to another port for this purpose. As the masters of vessels are now generally familiar with the "Authorised Ports," requests for such certificates are few so far as this Port is concerned. They are usually prompted by the fact that the vessel had received unexpected orders to proceed to a foreign port and the validity of the certificate is such that it will expire before reaching the port of destination.

3. Methods of dealing with rats vary according to circumstances. Fumigants in the shape of sulphur-dioxide, rat varnish, poison, dogs, and, on occasion, ferrets are used.

The case of a local day trip vessel may be cited as an example of the use of dogs. Traces of rats were discovered in the crew's quarters forward. This part of the vessel embraced a certain amount of food storage space, and although the place was empty at the time, the difficulty of effectually sealing the compartments rendered the possible effect of local fumigation doubtful. The behaviour of the rat-catcher's dogs showed that the rats had taken refuge under the floor. The floors were taken up to allow the dogs to work and they very soon accounted for a dozen rats. The vermin had taken

all sorts of articles under the flooring with which to build their nests and it is worth of note that an entire shirt, stockings, dusters, pantry cloths, etc., were among the articles found beneath the floor. It was difficult to believe that the accumulation was the work of the few rats caught. That this was the case, however, was borne out by the fact that the majority of the larger articles were recognised by the owners who had missed them a few weeks previously. The rats caught were all "black" rats and showed no signs of disease.

4. Warehouses and wharves are kept under general observation so that serious infestation may be noted. The owners and persons in charge of warehouses are well aware of the possibility of disease being spread by rats. The damage these rodents are capable of doing is self-evident, and cats, aided on occasion by the services of the Corporation Rat-catcher, and periodical visits of the employees of rat-catching firms, are methods by which the warehouse owners discourage infestation of their property.

5. RAT-PROOFING. Very few of the riverside buildings may be said to be rat-proof. Rat-proofing such as expanded metal over ventilating apertures and similar openings, and metal plates fastened over rat-holes, are the usual form of rendering the older buildings as rat-proof as practicable.

RATS DESTROYED DURING 1935.

TABLE E.

1. ON VESSELS. Forty-seven rats were killed by dogs, cats, traps and cargo workers. There was no suspicion of plague.

TABLE F.

2. IN DOCKS, QUAYS AND WAREHOUSES. During the year about 1,470 rats were accounted for by the owners of the principal warehouses by means of cats, traps etc. This does not include 1,291 rats killed by the rat-catcher in river-side buildings.

TABLE G.

Particulars of Plague "infected" or "suspected" vessels arriving in the Port.—Nil.

TABLE H.

MEASURES OF DERATISATION. No certificates are issued.

VI. HYGIENE OF CREW SPACE.

TABLE J.

Nationality of Vessel.	No. inspected during 1935.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British	861	1	63	198
Other Nations	375	4	18	90
Estuarial	670	2	20	37

With the exception of two intimations, all instructions were verbal.

## VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

(a) Cargoes of flour, potatoes, wheat, maize, linseed, barley and sugar to the number of 112 cargoes were examined.

(b) SHELL-FISH. Oysters are grown on various creeks in the lower reaches of the river. These layings are under the control of various oyster merchants.

Certain parts of the river are dredged by "free fishermen," who are required under the terms of the licence permitting them to dredge to dispose of their catch to oyster merchants.

The responsibility of re-laying or cleansing to conform with the requirements of the Medway Shell-fish Regulations, 1936, rests with the oyster merchants. A proposal to provide a cleansing plant on the Medway is at present under consideration. There are no shell-fish imported into the Port.

## VIII. OTHER INFORMATION.

### 1. CANAL BOATS.

As previously reported there are no canal boats at present operating on the Lower Medway. The place of these vessels is taken by lighters, barges and small motor craft.

### 2. GENERAL SANITARY WORK OF THE PORT.

(a) The staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, one Port Sanitary Inspector and a general assistant.

(b) A motor launch is provided.

(c) Provision for cleansing and disinfecting verminous persons has been reported and has undergone no change.

(d) There is no arrangement for the receipt of wireless messages relating to the health of the crews of incoming vessels, nor does such an arrangement seem necessary at present.

(e) In addition to the cargo traffic of the Port, several large day trip passenger vessels continue to operate between Kent and Essex seaside resorts and between Rochester and the Continent. These vessels are inspected from time to time.

(f) There are a few houseboats on the river, used as dwellings. These are visited from time to time.

(g) It has not been necessary to take any special action during the year with respect to plague "infected" or "suspected" vessels. As previously reported, the majority of vessels from foreign ports are discharged out in the stream, a fact that facilitates their temporary isolation should this be necessary.

A steamer from Africa arrived with three of her crew suffering from Malarial Fever. One man was removed to hospital, the remaining two patients being treated on board. The ship and the patients were kept under observation while in the Port.

(h) One budgerigar was refused landing under the Psittacosis Regulations.

### 3. CASES OF SICKNESS.

One case of Malaria, one of Measles, and one of Pneumonia were sent to hospital. Cases of a trivial and non-infectious nature were advised to obtain medical treatment where this appeared necessary.

### 4. GENERAL.

Outlying parts of the district have been visited from time to time. Complaints were received with respect to a houseboat used as a dwelling. On investigation the boat proved to be lying within the boundary of an adjacent district. Representation was made to the Authority concerned and the boat was condemned and demolished.

A contact from a steamer arriving in another port with Small-pox on board was followed up and notification given to the necessary Medical Officer.

Samples of river water have been taken at various points and tested for salinity in connection with the proposal to erect a cleansing plant at present under consideration.

Cargoes of fur waste from Belgium, used by farmers as a land dressing, were observed to contain a number of beetles. The possibility of these insects becoming a pest was considered and specimens were sent to the British Museum for identification. They were identified as being of the species "*Dermestes Volpinus*" and whilst being harmless so far as health was concerned, were stated to be a potential pest if allowed to invade dwellings in any numbers.

The various farmers to whom the fur was delivered were warned of this and advised to store the fur away from dwellings until it was placed on the land. Informal representation was made to the shippers through the masters of the vessels concerned with the result that subsequent cargoes were free from beetles.

The following are the figures for arrivals (other than estuarial craft), for the preceding five years and 1935:—

1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930
1278	1426	1260	1100	1432	1485





